



Randolph County Humane Society's
Paws & Claws

Winter 2009 Newsletter

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“Raise the Woof” Campaign Moves Into Phase 2

It has taken more than two years for the new kennel facility to become a reality for the shelter’s staff and volunteers.

In addition to creating kennels for more than 36 dogs - more than double the number the current shelter building has been able to house indoors - the facility now boasts dog isolation and quarantine rooms, a clinic room, laundry room and employee/volunteer clean up room.

“We are all very excited about the completion of our new dog building,” said Kelly Scheidegger, shelter manager. “Although our old facility has been a place of refuge for lost and unwanted dogs, it was simply old and in constant need of repair. We now have a modern facility designed to better meet the needs and comfort of the dogs in our care.”

The opening of the new kennel facility also marks

the commencement of Phase 2 of the “Raise the Woof” capital campaign. Phase 2 will provide the shelter with a new frame building housing a cat room, staff offices, an education room and lobby area.



Cat Room Notes from the RCHS Cat Lady!

As we celebrate Home for the Holidays 2009, the RCHS staff would like to remind you that our cat room is full of wonderful felines.

There are young ones , old ones and cats in between! There are cats of all sizes, shapes and personalities. - everything from love bugs , who want to curl up in your lap, to the more dignified, who will adore you from afar. There are cats of all colors too!

The one thing they have in common is the need for a new loving, permanent home. The holiday months



Pinky is just one of the many cats and kittens available for adoption at the shelter this month.

would be a great time to add a new friend to your family!

But if now would not seem the best time to adopt, perhaps you would be able to help in other ways, such as fostering a

cat for the holidays or sponsoring the adoption or neutering of one of our shelter guests.

The shelter kitties always like visitors and volunteers to help with daily care and cuddling are always welcome.

Contact us at 636-7844 and see what you can do to help the RCHS feline residents.

Please remember, the single most important thing you can do is to spay and neuter your own companion animals!

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Due to a large increase in the number of pets we have received in recent weeks, RCHS has an urgent need for the following supplies...

- Dry dog food
- Dry puppy food,
- Dry cat food,
- Cans of wet dog food,
- Dog Biscuits,
- Cans of wet cat food,
- Cat litter,
- Bleach,
- Cleaning Supplies

If anyone can help by donating some of these items, it would be greatly appreciated!



Codetta loves the perches in the new playhouse!



Maniac waits to greet visitors.



Tom plays while he waits for his new forever home.

RCHS Cats Have a New Play House!

**Well, we have heard many say
that every dog has its day
and it's true here at the shelter
the pups have a new place to stay
But we kitties are celebrating
we have a new place to play!**

Before you enter the RCHS cat room, you will notice a brand new structure in the yard - the cats have a new play house!

The RCHS cats wish to say thank you to two of our wonderful shelter supporters for building this special place for us.

We now have an outdoor playground where we can go to enjoy the sights and sounds of the outdoors, stretch our legs and



The new Kitty City playhouse, built by shelter volunteers, provides a place for shelter cats to play and get fresh air during warmer weather months.

sharpen our kitty claws. The play house features logs to scratch, places to hide, perches to watch from, steps to climb and even a basket and bed for an afternoon nap.

We are happy that our canine friends have a new building, but as we wait for our own special building to be built as well, we are glad to have a "kitty condo" of our own as well!

Thank you so much!!!

Tips for Keeping Your Pet Safe During the Winter Months

Courtesy of the ASPCA

Brrrr...it's cold outside! The following guidelines will help you protect your companion animals when the mercury dips.

- Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost or be stolen, injured or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to infectious diseases, including rabies, from other cats, dogs and wildlife.
- During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes

sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.

- Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm—dogs can lose their scent and eas-

ily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure yours always wears ID tags.

- Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice. Be sure to wipe his paws as pads may bleed from snow or encrusted ice.
- Never leave your

dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.

- Like coolant, anti-freeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle and wipe your shoes when coming indoors.

Source: www.asPCA.org/pet-care/pet-care-tips/cold-weather-tips

Swine Flu and Your Pets

Courtesy of the ASPCA

Ever since the news broke earlier this month that an American cat caught the swine flu, rumors about how pets can catch this disease have been spreading—but we're here to set the record straight!

On November 2, test results confirmed that a pet cat in Iowa was infected by the H1N1 (swine flu) virus, which was most likely transmitted by human family members," reports Dr. Louise Murray, Director of Medicine at the ASPCA. "All family members, including the cat, have now recovered. In unrelated incidents in other states, a few pet ferrets also recently tested positive for H1N1, and one of them has died." Although we already knew

that infected humans could transmit H1N1 to both pigs and turkeys, these are the first reported cases of the virus affecting cats and ferrets.

According to Dr. Murray, there are no known instances of a dog catching H1N1 (but remember, it is flu season, and your dogs are still susceptible to catching other flu bugs). In addition, **there is currently no evidence that H1N1 can be passed from pet to human**—it seems to be going only the other way, with people transmitting the illness to their pets.

A little common sense will go a long way in decreasing the likelihood of passing the illness on to your pets.

If members of your household are exhibiting flu-like symptoms, the ASPCA recommends protecting your pets by:

- washing hands thoroughly,
- covering coughs and sneezes and
- avoiding close contact with pets during the course of the illness.

In fact, if you're sick, it's a good idea to give your pets a place other than your bedroom to sleep at night until you get better.

If any pet displays symptoms such as lethargy, loss of appetite, coughing, sneezing or difficulty breathing — especially if a human family member has recently suffered from influenza—please contact your veterinarian.

Source: www.asPCA.org/news/national/11-20-09

Pets are very good at hiding when they don't feel well, so it's important to note any changes in behavior.

If your pet is exhibiting flu-like symptoms, including coughing, nasal discharge or fever (normal dog and cat temperature is 101 to 102.5 degrees), play it safe and avoid taking him to places like dog parks, where he can pass on germs or come into contact with unvaccinated or sick dogs.

Make sure your pet is eating, drinking and playing as he normally does each day.

If you notice your pet behaving unusually, or if he has flu-like symptoms, check in with your veterinarian immediately.

Off-Site Adoptions Continue Throughout the Year

By Cuddles, RCHS Mascot



Hi Gang - its me Cuddles, the off site adoption doggy mascot!

I just want to remind you that just because its colder

weather, does not mean that off sites will be over. We are always ready to bring adoptable pets to the community!

We would love to be a part of your event or special activity at your business. Watch the newspaper during the holidays for special announcements about our off site adoptions!

Off site adoptions give us a chance to bring the animals out to the public at times when some may not be able to make it to the shelter - and helps the animals by exposing them to new sites and faces!

Please call the shelter for more information about having the off-site adoption team visit your next special event.



Patches, a senior Shetland Sheepdog/Sheltie Mix, is just one of the shelter's many pets still waiting for her forever home!



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OUR BUSINESS HOURS:

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 1 P.M. TO 5 P.M.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1 P.M. TO 3 P.M.



**Cookbooks
Make
Great
Christmas
Gifts!**

Cookbooks for Sale!

The cookbooks that Parrack Insurance have sponsored as a fundraiser for the shelter are in and ready for sale! Cookbooks are \$10 each and can be purchased at Parrack Insurance located at 1301 Harrison Avenue in Elkins and at the RCHS shelter.

I WANT TO MAKE A DONATION!

Please indicate below how much you would like to donate:

___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ Other \$\$ ___

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

You can now make online donations to the RCHS through PayPal! Just go to www.rchs-pets.org for more information or to sign-up today!

I would like to make a donation *In Memory Of*

If making a donation "In Memory Of" would you like to receive an acknowledgement of your gift?

___ Yes ___ No

Please make checks payable to "RCHS" and mail to:
P.O. Box 785, Elkins, WV 26241